CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES March 9, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DRAFT REPORT, PUBLIC WORKSHOP, AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

HEALTH ADVISORY AND SAFE EATING GUIDELINES FOR FISH AND SHELLFISH FROM THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND SOUTH DELTA (CONTRA COSTA, SAN JOAQUIN, STANISLAUS, MERCED, MADERA, AND FRESNO COUNTIES)

The California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) announces the availability of the draft report entitled "Health Advisory and Safe Eating Guidelines for Fish and Shellfish from the San Joaquin River and South Delta (Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties)." The report contains an evaluation of studies of mercury levels in fish from the San Joaquin River and other rivers, sloughs, and flooded tracts in the South Delta, and provides safe eating guidelines for these water bodies. OEHHA is soliciting comments from interested parties on the draft report and safe eating guidelines during a 45-day public comment period. Comments may be submitted at any time until the close of the comment period. OEHHA will also hold a public workshop and training on the safe eating guidelines for the San Joaquin River and South Delta on March 20, 2007, at 9:30 AM, at the County of San Joaquin Public Health Services office at 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton. OEHHA will make presentations and answer questions, and the workshop will include opportunities for the public to participate.

Comments on the draft report may be submitted by phone, fax, or e-mail to Dr. Margy Gassel. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 23, 2007. OEHHA will consider comments received by this time and revise the draft report and safe eating guidelines as appropriate to issue a final report.

OEHHA is making the draft document available at the OEHHA Web site at http://www.oehha.ca.gov. A copy of the report is also available by calling (510) 622-3170.

If you would like to submit comments, receive further information on this announcement, or have questions, please contact Dr. Margy Gassel using the information provided below.

Dr. Margy Gassel California Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch 1515 Clay Street 16th Floor Oakland, California 94612 Phone: (510) 622-3166

Fax: (916) 622-3218

e-mail: mgassel@oehha.ca.gov